

Hattie Thomas/R7/USEPA/US

To

02/07/2013 04:26 PM

cc

bcc Karl Brooks

Subject OPA Daily Digest 2/7/13

## **OPA Daily Digest for 2/7/13**

### **Congressional Inquiries:**

None

**Sen. Claire McCaskill (Mo.)** – Letter – 1/29/13: Constituent concerns about fines for RRP Rule violations. Due: 2/12/13. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

**Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (Neb.)** – Telephone – 2/5/13: Questions on TSDF's and financial assurance requirements. Contact: Sarah Hatch 7199 (closed)

**Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (Neb.)** – Telephone – 2/5/13: Questions on EPA activities related to a dry cleaner in Columbus, Neb. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

**Sens. Johanns and Fischer (Neb.)** – Telephone – 2/6/13: Requesting EPA participate in a phone call with Neb Congressionals and other agencies. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

### **State Government Inquiries:**

None

### **Press Inquiries:**

**WNAX Radio** – Tom Riter – 2/5/13: Questions about EPA's meeting with environmental groups in Iowa regarding the CAFO permitting and compliance program. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

**Reuters News Service** – Sabina Zawadzki – 2/6/13: Questions about Coffeyville, Kan., oil refinery. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

**KWWL Channel 7, Waterloo, Iowa** – Shelley Russell – 2/7/13: Questions about odor complaints from the Chamberlain site in Waterloo. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

**KSDK Channel 5, St. Louis** – Leisa Zigman – 2/7/13: Questions about West Lake Landfill Site, Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

**KMOX Radio, St. Louis** – Kevin Killeen - 2/7/13: Questions about West Lake Landfill Site, Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

**Water Operator Magazine** - Lisa Balcerak - 2/7/13: Questions about energy management innovations at drinking water plants in Region 7. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (open)

### **Environmental Stories:**

**Telegraph-Herald, Dubuque, Iowa** - EPA reports decline in carbon pollution from power plants - 2/6/13 - Heat-trapping gases from U.S. power plants fell 4.6 percent in 2011 from the previous year as plants burned less coal, the biggest source of greenhouse gas pollution, according to a new government

report.

[http://www.thonline.com/news/national\\_world/article\\_ecc46a80-b0fe-5724-ab04-2a85c8d208f2.html](http://www.thonline.com/news/national_world/article_ecc46a80-b0fe-5724-ab04-2a85c8d208f2.html)

**St. Louis Post-Dispatch - State testing air around Bridgeton Landfill** - 2/7/13 - State regulators have begun testing the air quality around the Bridgeton Landfill after serving the operator notice that odors related to smoldering waste deep underground are a nuisance and violate state law.

[http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/state-testing-air-around-bridgeton-landfill/article\\_52ba5a26-114d-55b0-a11d-4079c1bed1ca.html](http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/state-testing-air-around-bridgeton-landfill/article_52ba5a26-114d-55b0-a11d-4079c1bed1ca.html)

**St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Illinois AG says Ameren illegally disposed of coal ash** - 2/7/13 - Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan has filed a complaint alleging that Ameren Energy Generating Co. illegally disposed of 180,000 tons of coal ash at its Duck Creek power plant in Peoria, Ill.

[http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/illinois-ag-says-ameren-illegally-disposed-of-coal-ash/article\\_90018b66-360b-594d-9518-df98555d9837.html](http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/illinois-ag-says-ameren-illegally-disposed-of-coal-ash/article_90018b66-360b-594d-9518-df98555d9837.html)

**KWWL Ch. 7 Waterloo, Iowa - Chemical smell at former Chamberlain Manufacturing site** - 2/7/13 - Neighbors of the former Chamberlain Manufacturing site are reporting a strange smell. The Waterloo Planning and Zoning Department says crews were digging at the site, and a chemical smell began coming from the soil.

<http://www.kwwl.com/story/21013438/2013/02/06/chemical-smell-at-former-chamberlain-manufacturing-site>

**Omaha World-Herald - Non-ethanol income aids Green Plains Renewable Energy** - 1/7/13 - Green Plains Renewable Energy reported a decline in net income for 2012 overall, despite a bump in net income for its final quarter of the year. Growth in non-ethanol operating income — including the sale of 12 grain elevators — cushioned lower income from ethanol.

<http://www.omaha.com/article/20130207/MONEY/702139991/1697#non-ethanol-income-aids-green-plains-renewable-energy>

**Scottsbluff Star Herald, Neb. - NPPD weighs future energy possibilities** - 1/7/13 - Resource diversity is the key to success, according to the preliminary results of the Nebraska Public Power District's latest energy study. The Integrated Resource Plan suggests coal, nuclear and wind power all factor into Nebraska's energy future.

[http://www.starherald.com/news/local\\_news/nppd-weighs-future-energy-possibilities/article\\_3095fa0a-70db-11e2-bca0-001a4bcf887a.html](http://www.starherald.com/news/local_news/nppd-weighs-future-energy-possibilities/article_3095fa0a-70db-11e2-bca0-001a4bcf887a.html)

**Des Moines Register - Ethanol industry ready to punch back at critics** - 2/7/13 - The ethanol industry declared all-out war on its critics Wednesday, taking aim at those who have aggressively campaigned to end the country's renewable fuels mandate.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20130207/BUSINESS/302070038/1029/>

**Lawrence Journal-World - Legislature considering delays in renewable energy standards** - 2/5/13 - The Senate Standing Committee for Utilities is proposing to delay or modify the mandates established by the Renewable Energy Standards Act that would relieve utilities' requirements to use more renewable fuels. <http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2013/feb/05/legislature-considering-delays-renewable-energy-st/>

**Kansas City Business Journal - St. Mary's Medical Center shines as a federal Energy Star** - 1/7/13 - St. Mary's Medical Center in Blue Springs, Mo., is now the only hospital in the Kansas City area to receive an energy efficient certification from the federal government.

[http://www.bizjournals.com/kansascity/blog/morning\\_call/2013/02/st-marys-gets-only-kc-area-federal.html](http://www.bizjournals.com/kansascity/blog/morning_call/2013/02/st-marys-gets-only-kc-area-federal.html)

**Parsons Sun - Engineers to look at backup generator plan for the city** - 2/6/13 - The city will spend nearly \$50,000 on engineering fees for the addition of backup power generators for the wastewater treatment plant and lift stations and more than \$83,000 for the inspection of manholes. A U.S. EPA compliance order is forcing the city to correct problems found during a visit to the wastewater plant in

2011. <http://tinyurl.com/ParsonsGenerator>

**ClimateWire - House Energy and Commerce's Terry discusses possible action on pipeline** - 2/7/13 - During today's OnPoint, Rep. Lee Terry (R-Neb.), a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, discusses the future of the Keystone XL pipeline proposal following Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman's approval of a revised route. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/rss/2013/02/07/15>

**ClimateWire - Utilities prepare for carbon rules on operating power plants** – 2/7/13 - Imposing greenhouse gas regulations on the nation's existing power plants is the main climate priority sought by environmental groups as President Obama begins a second term. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/rss/2013/02/07/1>

**USA Today - Report: Climate change could devastate agriculture** - 2/5/13 - A comprehensive USDA study concludes rising temperatures could cost farmers millions as they battle new pests, faster weed growth and get smaller yields as climate change continues. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/02/05/climate-change-agriculture-study/1893455/>

**Biofuels Digest (blog) - Battle for the Barrel: Ethanol strikes back as industry is “under siege but fighting back.”** - 2/7/13 - Renewable Fuels Association CEO Bob Dinneen presented a fiery keynote address yesterday at the National Ethanol Conference. He readied the industry for a year of battle over the RFS, E15 and what he termed “protectionist policies” in the EU and Brazil. <http://www.biofuelsdigest.com/bdigest/2013/02/07/battle-for-the-barrel-ethanol-strikes-back-as-industry-is-under-siege-but-fighting-back/>

**NPR - As Drought Intensifies, 2 States Dig In Over Water War (audio - 4:13)** - 2/6/13 - Epic water battles are the stuff of history and legend, especially in the West. And as a severe drought drags on in the Midwest, a water war is being waged over a river that irrigates agriculture in Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas. <http://www.npr.org/2013/02/06/171284774/as-drought-intensifies-2-states-dig-in-over-water-war>

**Brownfield Ag News - What's next at EPA?** (audio - 6:41) - 2/6/13 - EPA will soon have a new administrator. And there is speculation that President Obama is going to make “climate change” a top priority in his second term. So what can cattlemen expect out of the EPA over the next few years? <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2013/02/06/whats-next-at-epa/>

**Brownfield Ag News - Renewable Fuels Association poll: people like renewable fuels** - 2/6/13 - A poll commissioned by the Renewable Fuels Association indicates that for the second year in a row, 64 percent of those surveyed support the renewable fuel standard; 25 percent oppose it. <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2013/02/06/renewable-fuels-association-poll-people-like-renewable-fuels/>

**E&E Daily - Bipartisan bill targets cellulosic requirements** - 1/7/13 - U.S. EPA would be compelled to base its annual cellulosic biofuel requirements on the previous year's actual production under legislation introduced late yesterday by a bipartisan pair of House members. <http://www.eenews.net/EEDaily/rss/2013/02/07/7>

**ClimateWire - Wind projects dominated new power production last year -- study** - 1/7/13 - Electric utilities and independent power producers completed 430 new power plants accounting for 29,335 megawatts of new generation projects in 2012, a whopping 43 percent increase over the previous year. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/rss/2013/02/07/7>

**ClimateWire - Advocates gear up to defend renewable fuel standard** - 2/7/13 - Advocates for the biofuel industry are sharpening their swords and ginning up support for the federal mandate on biofuel blending in anticipation of a new round of attacks from the oil and gas industry. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/rss/2013/02/07/4>

**ClimateWire - Scientists find cheap method to purify water produced from oil and gas wells** - 2/7/13 - Though water is one of the most abundant substances on the planet, much of it is hard to use:

too salty to drink, too contaminated for crops or frozen away in ice. People need to expend energy to make this water usable. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/rss/2013/02/07/2>

**McClatchy Newspapers - Report outlines climate change options for Obama administration -**

1/6/13 - The United States will struggle to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to promised levels by 2020, a report from a prominent think tank warned this week, but the federal government, states and industry already have the means at their disposal to achieve such goals.

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2013/02/06/182206/report-outlines-climate-change.html>

**DeSMOGBlog - Is TransCanada Laying Defective Keystone XL Pipe in Texas?** - 1/7/13 - Last week, activists fighting the TransCanada Keystone XL construction of the pipeline released images of what they claim are improperly welded pipeline seams.

<http://www.desmogblog.com/2013/02/06/transcanada-laying-defective-keystone-xl-pipeline-texas>

**The Hill - House Republicans reject Democrats' call for climate science hearings** - 2/6/13 - House Energy and Commerce Committee Republicans have rebuffed Democrats' bid to require the high-profile panel to hold hearings on links between climate change, extreme weather and threats to coastal areas.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/281439-house-gop-blocks-dem-push-for-climate-science-hearings>

**BNA - EPA Moves to Exclude Five Substances From Volatile Organic Compound Regulation -**

2/7/13 - EPA has issued a final rule to exclude four chemical compounds from being regulated as volatile organic compounds that contribute to ozone formation.

[http://news.bna.com/deIn/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=29624107&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d6h5m0x7&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deIn/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=29624107&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d6h5m0x7&split=0)

**BNA - Kerry Urged to Reject Keystone Pipeline, Act on Climate Change as Secretary of State -**

2/7/13 - Dozens of environmental groups on Feb. 6 called on newly confirmed Secretary of State John Kerry to reject the Keystone XL pipeline and take bold actions to ensure the United States is leading international efforts to address climate change.

[http://news.bna.com/deIn/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=29624120&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d6h6p5z0&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deIn/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=29624120&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d6h6p5z0&split=0)

**BNA - EPA Taking Comment on 2013 Renewable Fuels Rule** - 2/7/13 - EPA will accept comments until March 25 on a proposed rule that would require 16.55 billion gallons of renewable fuels in 2013, according to a notice to be published Feb. 7.

[http://news.bna.com/deIn/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=29624104&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d6h5e8k5&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deIn/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=29624104&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d6h5e8k5&split=0)

**BNA - EPA Releases Report Outlining Smart Growth Strategies for Low-Income Communities -**

2/7/13 - EPA released a report Feb. 6 identifying smart growth strategies that low-income and minority communities can use to build healthy communities, spur economic growth, and protect the environment.

[http://news.bna.com/deIn/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=29624121&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d6h6p7e3&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deIn/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=29624121&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d6h6p7e3&split=0)

**BNA - EPA to Issue Nonhazardous Secondary Materials Rule** - 2/7/13 - EPA is scheduled to publish a final rule Feb. 7 clarifying which materials may be treated as fuels rather than solid wastes when burned in boilers or solid waste incinerators.

[http://news.bna.com/deIn/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=29624118&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d6h6m6t5&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deIn/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=29624118&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d6h6m6t5&split=0)

**BNA - Recyclers Hope Final TSCA Interpretation Will Allow Auto Scrap With Low PCB Levels -**

2/7/13 - The Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries is hopeful EPA will soon finalize an interpretation of the Toxic Substances Control Act that would generally allow for recycling of plastic materials recovered from automobiles containing low levels of polychlorinated biphenyls.

[http://news.bna.com/deIn/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=29624114&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d](http://news.bna.com/deIn/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=29624114&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d)

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**Inside EPA - EPA Defends Revised Combustion Air Rules From Equity Advocates' Attacks** - 2/6/13  
- EPA officials are defending the agency's decision to revise a package of combustion air rules from environmental justice advocates' criticisms that EPA weakened the rules at the expense of public health.  
<http://insideepa.com/201302072423861/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-defends-revised-combustion-air-rules-from-equity-advocates-attacks/menu-id-95.html>

**Inside EPA - EPA Backs Off Push For Strict Nutrient Criteria In States After Florida Fight** - 2/6/13 -  
EPA appears to be backing down on its push for states to quickly adopt strict numeric nutrient criteria, with the agency supporting new initiatives with long-time horizons and a mixture of numeric and narrative measures for waterbody health.  
<http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-02/08/2013/epa-backs-off-push-for-strict-nutrient-criteria-in-states-after-florida-fight/menu-id-67.html>

**Inside EPA - Fearing Effects On Keystone, Corps Defends Key Clean Water Permit** - 2/6/13 - The Army Corps of Engineers is defending the Clean Water Act (CWA) general permit that it will use to authorize the Keystone XL oil pipeline's already approved southern leg.  
<http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-02/08/2013/fearing-effects-on-keystone-corps-defends-key-clean-water-permit/menu-id-67.html>

**Inside EPA - Early Rift Develops Over New State Air Group's Potential Political Agenda** - 2/6/13 -  
An early rift appears to be developing among members of the newly launched Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies (AAPCA) over signals that the group could adopt an overt political agenda to fight EPA rules.  
<http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-02/08/2013/early-rift-develops-over-new-state-air-groups-potential-political-agenda/menu-id-67.html>

**Inside EPA - Kerry Urged To Reject Keystone** - 2/6/13 - A coalition of 60 environmental and allied groups is urging Secretary of State John Kerry to deny a permit for the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline from Canada.  
<http://insideepa.com/201302062423786/EPA-Blog/The-Inside-Story/kerry-urged-to-reject-keystone/menu-id-97.html>

**Inside EPA - E-Waste Group Touts Jobs Study** - 2/6/13 - Proponents of pending legislation that would restrict the export of electronic wastes (e-waste) from the United States to developing countries are touting a new study that predicts U.S. job growth if the bill becomes law.  
<http://insideepa.com/201302062423782/EPA-Blog/The-Inside-Story/e-waste-group-touts-jobs-study/menu-id-97.html>

**Inside EPA - Suit Over EPA RICE Rule Dropped** - 2/6/13 - Energy demand response providers are dropping their federal appeals court suit challenging an EPA air toxics rule for reciprocating internal combustion engines (RICE) after the agency revised the rule, saying the agency's changes satisfy the terms of a settlement between the demand response industry and the agency.  
<http://insideepa.com/201302062423778/EPA-Blog/The-Inside-Story/suit-over-epa-rice-rule-dropped/menu-id-97.html>

## **Press Releases:**

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

**EPA to Provide Smart Growth Technical Assistance to Atchison, Kan.** - 2/7/13 - Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

**EPA to Provide Smart Growth Technical Assistance to Omaha, Neb.** - 2/7/13 - Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

**EPA to Provide Smart Growth Technical Assistance to Lawrence, Kan.** - 2/7/13 - Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

**EPA to Provide Smart Growth Technical Assistance to Dubuque, Iowa** - 2/7/13 - Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

**EPA to Provide Smart Growth Technical Assistance to Bellevue, Neb.** 2/7/13 - Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

### **Fact Sheets:**

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

### **Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:**

\* New additions noted with an asterisk

**2/7-8/13** - Strategic Planning Meeting, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**2/12/13** – Black History Month Event, Regional Office. Contact: Sondra Tucker, 7796

**2/14/13** - Meet and greet with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Col. Anthony Funkhouser, Regional Office. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**2/21/13** - Interagency Environmental Leadership Council Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Ron Hammerschmidt, 7566

**2/22/13** - Interview with Ken Root, WHO-TV, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

**2/27/13** – Visit Kickapoo Nation, Horton, Kan. Contact: Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

**3/4-6/13** - Iowa State University Lecture Series - Guest Speaker, Ames, Iowa. Contacts: Josh Svaty, 7202 and Julia Cacho, 7071

**3/27/13** - Missouri Water Environment Association & American Water Works Association Joint Conference, Osage Beach, Mo. Contact: Karen Flourney, 7782

**4/16/13** - Greater St. Louis Air & Waste Management Association meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487.

### **DRA:**

**2/14/13** - Meet and greet with U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Col. Anthony Funkhouser, Regional Office. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**2/19/13** - Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA) presentation, Overland Park, Kan. Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

**4/15-17/13** - Attend Executive Management Council meeting, Washington, DC Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

### **SA:**

**2/22/13** - Interview with Ken Root, WHO-TV, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

**3/4-6/13** - Iowa State University Lecture Series – Guest Speaker, Ames, Iowa. Contacts: Josh Svaty, 7202 and Julia Cacho, 7071

## **RA/Immediate Office**

None

## **Other Events**

### **AWMD**

None

### **CNSL**

None

### **ECO/J**

**\*3/8/2013** - EJ Small Grant Visit, Kickapoo Environmental Office, Horton, Kan. Contact: Brendan Corazzin, 7429

### **ENSV**

None

### **PLMG**

None

### **RA/OPA**

**2/11-12/13** – Attend legislative session, Jefferson City, MO. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199

**2/19-21/13** – Meet with US Senator Deb Fischer's Omaha and Lincoln offices. Attend state legislative session. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199

### **SUPR**

None

### **WWPD**

**2/26-3/1/13** - Water Quality Standards Managers and Coordinators Annual Meeting, Arlington, Va. Contacts: John DeLashmit, 7821; Ann Lavaty, 7370

**2/27/13** – EPA/Missouri Department of Natural Resources Public Water System Supervision Coordination meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contacts: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036, Carolyn Mitchell, 7187

**4/1-5/13** - 2013 National Training Workshop on Clean Water 303(d) Listing and Total Maximum Daily Loads, Shepherdstown, W.Va. Contact: Tabatha Adkins, 7128

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